

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-13, 18, and 19 are pending. Claims 6 and 8 are canceled by the present amendment. Claims 1, 3, 10, and 14-17 were canceled previously. Claims 2, 4, 9, and 11 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 2, 4, and 11 can be found in the published application in numbered paragraph [0043], for example and in Figs. 1 and 6. Support for the amendment to Claim 9 is self-evident. Support for newly added dependent Claims 18 and 19 can be found in Claim 9 inasmuch as Claims 18 and 19 are added in light of the amendment to Claim 9 to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added.

Applicant notes that the Office Action mailed on December 12, 2007, was indicated as a Final Office Action. However, Applicant notes that a Request for Continued Examination was filed on September 18, 2007, in response to an Advisory Action mailed on July 27, 2007. The Advisory Action indicated that the amendment filed on July 16, 2007, would not be entered because the amendment raised new issues of patentability. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that under M.P.E.P. § 706.07(b), the outstanding Office Action should not have been made final.

During a telephone discussion with Examiner Dulaney conducted on February 26, 2008, and another telephone discussion conducted on March 5, 2008, Examiner Dulaney indicated that a new Office Action identical to the outstanding Office Action would be mailed, but the new Office Action would be non-Final. As no new non-Final Office Action has yet been received by Applicant, and the shortened statutory due date for responding to the outstanding Office Action is March 12, 2008, the present response is filed as a response to the outstanding Office Action, which was mailed on December 12, 2007.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 4-9, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tonkin (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,568, herein "Tonkin"). Regarding the rejection of Claims 2, 4-9, and 11-13 as anticipated by Tonkin, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 2, recites, in part:

said document supervisory server is configured to change a combination of the print condition settings and to send a permissible combination including one set of changed print condition settings to the document supervisory client upon determining that the print condition settings are impermissible, and the document supervisory server is further configured to determine which of the print condition settings to change based on a priority order previously stored in the second computer, said document supervisory client is configured to generate a user interface based on the one set of changed print condition settings, and the combination of the print condition settings changed by said document supervisory server is a combination of print condition settings that were set by the document supervisory client.

Accordingly, the document supervisory server is configured to determine whether print condition settings are impermissible or permissible. Upon determining that the print condition settings are impermissible, the document supervisory server changes the print condition settings. **The document supervisory server determines which of the print condition settings to change based upon a priority order previously stored in a second computer.**

One benefit of the above-noted arrangement is that when a user enters a setting for printing that is incompatible with other settings, the setting will be changed automatically by the document supervisory server. The document supervisory server will change the setting based on priority information. Thus, settings that are less important will be changed before settings that are more important, and a user is more likely to receive a satisfactory printed document.

In contrast, in the event that a user enters invalid information, Tonkin merely sends an error message indicating the nature of the error.¹ Tonkin then allows the user to change the error.²

In a different situation, if the user has merely specified a general type of component to be used, the software provided in Tonkin will select specific information to further define the setting entered by the user. In other words, the user enters a general class of information, and the software provided by Tonkin **adds** specific information based on the class entered by the user.³

In either case, Tonkin does not prioritize settings to change based on priority information stored in a second computer. Rather, Tonkin merely fills in information that was omitted by a user. Tonkin does not change settings, much less **determine which settings to change based on priority information previously stored in a second computer** as recited in amended independent Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Tonkin for at least the reasons discussed above.

Amended independent Claims 4 and 11 recite substantially similar features to those discussed above regarding amended independent Claim 2 and patentably distinguish over Tonkin for at least the same reasons as Claim 2 does.

Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 18, and 19 each depend from one of amended independent Claims 2, 4, and 11 and patentably distinguish over Tonkin for at least the same reasons as Claims 2, 4, and 11 do.

¹ Tonkin, col. 10, lines 38-40.

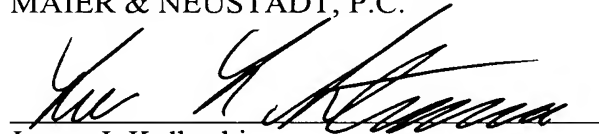
² Tonkin, col. 10, lines 40-41.

³ Tonkin, col. 9, lines 24-37.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Kulbaski', is written over a horizontal line.

James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Lee L. Stepina
Registration No. 56,837